



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2004

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-18
H. B. No. 14-18, HD1

AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2106 mandating that license plates be placed on both the front and rear of vehicles; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that many vehicle owners
2 do not display both license plates on their vehicle. Many vehicle owners choose to only
3 display the plates on the rear of the vehicles. This has been problematic for the Department
4 of Public Safety, creating difficulty on identifying fleeing vehicles or any vehicles for that
5 matter. In an effort to assist the Department of Public Safety, both license plates shall be
6 affix on the proper factory intended areas. This will allow the Department of Public Safety to
7 quickly identify vehicles and will also assist residents to recognize vehicles entering into
8 private property. The legislature further finds that the bureau of Motor Vehicles issues two
9 license plates upon registration of a vehicle. It is the intention of the Bureau to have both
10 plates displayed on the vehicle. Therefore, it is the purpose of this legislation to have vehicle
11 owners display both license plates at the front and rear of the vehicle, specifically at the
12 factory designated areas.

13 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2106 is hereby amended as follows:

14 “§ 2106. Registration: Display of Plates.

15 Every owner whose vehicle or bicycle is registered shall display the plates
16 issued by the bureau showing the registration number and year. Each of these plates
17 shall be attached properly to the front and rear of the vehicle or bicycle, at the factory
18 designated position. The plates shall be kept clean and the numbers must be clearly

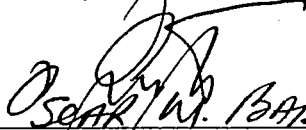
1 visible from a distance of 50 feet. No vehicle or bicycle owner may display an
2 unofficial plate at the front or rear of his vehicle or bicycle.”

3 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
4 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
5 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
6 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

7 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
8 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
9 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
10 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
11 The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
12 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
13 becomes effective.

14 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
15 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

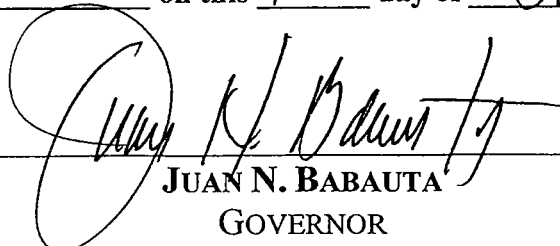

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

Acting
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:


EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

Approved on this *12th* day of *July*, 2004


JUAN N. BABAUTA
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS